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Says feds couldn't trace \$ to Murphy

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Authorities tailed Rep. John Murphy to a Washington antique shop in an unsuccessful attempt to trace some of the \$50,000 payoff money the congressman allegedly took from undercover Abscam agents, Murphy's lawyer charged today.

Lawyer Michael Tigar said agents followed Murphy to a shop that specialized in objects that appeal to Murphy's wife, Kathleen, but were unable to link any money he might have spent there to the Abscam cash.

Tigar tried to persuade Brooklyn Federal Court Judge George Pratt to order the release of government reports detailing efforts to trace the money given to accused bagman How-

ard Criden in an Oct. 20, 1979, meeting of Murphy, Criden and FBI agents posing as frontmen for a phony Arab sheik.

MURPHY (D-STATEN Island) and Rep. Frank Thompson (D-N.J.) are charged with accepting \$50,000 each in return for their help in arranging immigration favors for the bogus sheik. Both deny taking any cash.

Prosecutors say they have traced \$2,900 of the money to Philadelphia lawyer Ellis Cook, Criden's former law partner. Cook returned the money and has been cooperating with authorities under a grant of immunity.

He testified yesterday that Criden told him that Thompson received \$30,000 and Murphy got \$15,000. Cook said the rest of the money was divided among various lawyers and business-

men and Mayor Angelo Errichetti of Camden, N.J., who was convicted in an earlier Abscam case.

Meanwhile, the jury heard a taped conversation between Criden and government star witness Melvin Weinberg in which Criden boasted that he "used to be in the intelligence business" and had friends in the CIA.

On the Sept. 18, 1979, tape, Criden showed Weinberg a copy of what appeared to be confidential government report about the background of Florida lawyer Alvin Malnik, a reputed frontman for mob financial wizard Meyer Lansky. Abscam agents eventually met with Malnik.

When Weinberg asked Criden where he got the report, Criden replied: "It comes from Langley." The CIA has its headquarters in Langley Park, Va.